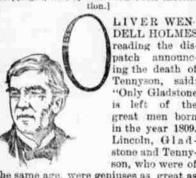
LINCOLN, TENNYSON AND GLAD-STONE WERE BORN IN 1809.

Interesting Reminiscences Told by Contemporaries of the Great Emancipator. Side Lights on Lincoln's Character-His Native Wit and Rugged Honesty.

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DELL HOLMES reading the dispatch announcing the death of Tennyson, said: "Only Gladstone is left of the great men born in the year 1809. Lincoln, Gladstone and Tennyson, who were of

the same age, were geniuses as great as the world has ever seen, and each of them will be remembered as long as the English language is spoken or read."

It is a little strange that this same thought should have occurred to others as distinguished as Dr. Holmes, for the English newspapers and some of the English statesmen, in speaking of Tennyson's life, saw fit to couple his name with that of Lincoln and of Gladstone as those of men who were the choicest gift to the human race of the year 1809.

During the past year some of those who were close to President Lincoln have died, and of all the number of men

who were conspicuous with the politics with which he was so preemicently associated perhaps only William M. Evarts and David Dudley Field are left. Field had gained fame while Lincoln was an awkward legislator in the Illinois house, giv-

TENNYSON

ing but slight hint of those powers which made his career what it was. Evarts had won such repute as rejoices the lawyer's heart while Lincoln was an obscure—and by many deemed almost clownish-member of the national house of representatives.

George William Curtis, who came to have profound admiration for Lincoln, and who in the convention that nominated the rail splitter made a speech having genuine eloquence in it, which gave him fame throughout the land, having died within the past year, Mr. Evarts alone is left of those men who were mighty warriors upon that historic

Two years ago the writer, meeting Hannibal Hamlin on the occasion of his last public appearance, at the dinner of the Lincoln club in New York city, asked that venerable statesman if, in his old age, as he reviewed his association with Mr. Lincoln as vice president, he



had changed his estimate of Lincoln's character at all. The old gentleman did not reply on the instant. He seemed to be weighing the words with which he should make answer, but he said at last, speaking with great solemnity

have changed my opinion. I always regarded Lincoln as a good man and an able man, but in these days of my retirement, as I look back upon my acquaintance with him, I see him as not only a good and an able man, but as the that she should sail purest, the most unselfish, and, all things considered, the ablest man our country into the harbor of has produced since it was established." And that message was almost the last | bombard the city or characterization of Lincoln which Mr. exact enormous trib-Hamlin made, for he died a few months

If one seeks today an impression from men who knew Lincoln or have studied bis life, the most significant comment which is made is this-that it is more and more realized that his greatest

power perhaps was his mastery over great men, and the astonishment which this understanding gives is that an obscure man, one who had no advantages, whose life was circumscribed by a little prairie town, who had no schooling, scarcely any inter-



course with the great HANNIBAL HAMLIN. men of his day before he became president, who was timid, diffident and in some respects painfully modest, should nevertheless, when he came in contact with the greatest men of the land, have sabordinated them to his purposes and compelled them to acknowledge his intellectual power and his superior judgment. It has been possible to obtain some anecdotes which, if they are not and which illustrate this pre-eminent quality of Abraham Lincoln.

His Political Mastery.

David Davis, who was one of Lincoln's earliest friends, and was perhaps the first to predict for him the probability of a great career, once said to the writer: "I believe that as time passes and Mr. Lincoln's life is impartially studied he will be esteemed as the ablest politician that political life in the United States has developed. Yet he was not a politician in the ordinary sense.

"Mr. Lincoln never managed a caucus, never urged a candidate for office, never palled a wire, never created a following or machine, and he had little patience or understanding when such things were discussed in his presence. Yet he had a wider knowledge of the effect of moral influences upon masses and a deeper understanding of the power of moral and intellectual impulse as a political agent than any other man of his time. This was shown in two cases, which, as I look back now, convince me that he expected to be a candidate for insted Lincoln, he went to the office of

tial ambition. Conk- Chicago. ling afterward ex-

anan's administration. It was under- some of his friends. stood that if the party of which Mr. They arose to congra-Lincoln was a member carried the state tulate him, and after legislature his friends would bring him forward as a candidate for the senate. "There is a little wo-He made the canvass with that under- mandown at my house standing. An element in the party, per- who I think would be W. M. EVARTS. haps the cuftured and wealthier element, favored Lyman Trumbull.

possible to choose as United States sen- the message to his wife. ator a member of the Republican party, and to the astonishment of Mr. Lincoln's friends he withdrew and urged the selec-Lincoln's friends were amazed. They that Mr. Lincoln realized that with Lvman Trumbull in the senate his most formidable competitor for the presidential nomination, at least in Illinois, would be beyond the power of doing his own ambition injury.

"He Never Can Be President."

Two years later Mr. Lincoln again did then a grievous mistake, but which they afterward perceived was a stroke of polities such as would be suggested only by

pre-eminent genius. He was carrying on that debate with Stephen A. Douglas which is now one of the great traditions of politics. He prepared a series of questions which he proposed to ask Douglas on the stump. He permitted

DOUGLAS. some of his friends to cast their eyes over these interrogations, and they said to him, "Don't ask him this question, Mr. Lincoln, because if you do he will answer it in such a way as to make his

re-election to the senate certain. "Ah!" replied Lincoln, with a twinkle in his eye. "Yes, that is true, but if he takes that shoot he never can be president." The friends who heard this were amazed that Lincoln should be willing thus to let Douglas defeat him for the senate, but they perceived afterward that Lincoln was entirely willing to let Douglas resume his oratorical flights in the senate if thereby he would be able to defeat his presidential aspirations.

These anecdotes Judge Davis mentioned to illustrate that higher power as a politician which enabled Lincoln to win the greatest triumph of politics. It was a great game he played, so great that it was not understood by the ordinary politician until results were accom-

The "Skeered" Merchants.

Chauncey M. Depew tells a story of of manner: "Yes, 1 Lincoln which illustrates this quality which enabled him to appear at ease, and also to demonstrate his mastery when in the presence of great men. It well as I did, although most of them he was at the time that the ironclad Mer- had never seen. He had an understandrimac was being built. The story was

> upon the ocean and New York and either ute. A committee of New York merchants appointed by the chamber of commerce was sent to Washington to im-

plore Mr. Lincoln to do something to protect New York harbor. He received them courteously, but face as he listened to the spokesman. That man said: "Mr. Lincoln, we represent hundreds of millions of property. New York is practically defenseless. If the Merrimac comes into our harbor, it can ruin us, and we implore you at once least was Mr. Weed's opinion.

to take measures to give us defense." For a minute or two Mr. Lincoln did not reply. He knew the government was straining every nerve to prevent depredations by the Merrimac. It could do nothing more. It seemed for an in- ought to pursue, and in which he in stant as though there were a suggestion of anger in his glance, but if he had that impulse he subdued it. That quaint smile which anticipated a humorous story came to his face, and he said: "Well, gentlemen, I think if I had as many millions at peril as you say you have, and I was as 'skeered' as you seem new, have not been widely circulated, to be about the coming of the Merrimac, instead of coming down here and making speeches about it I would go home and spend some of those millions in making defenses myself." And that was all he said to them. The New York merchants were amazed, and yet as they went away they confessed that common sense was in his humorous advice, and they also confessed their sense of the mastery of this man.

His Simplicity at Great Moments. Thurlow Weed in his old age was full of anecdotes which he was fond of tell-

ing to illustrate that simplicity of greatness which characterized Lincoln perhaps in a higher degree than any other man that astute politician, Weed, ever met. Weed was fond of telling one which suggested strikingly that quality of simplicity. On the day that the Chi-THURLOW WEED, cago convention nom-

Judge Davis then went on to say that manner cooler than that of any man in Lincoln realized what nobody else at the room, while he chatted and told that time seemed to understand—that a stories with such delicious abandon as seat in the senate was an almost insuper- would have suggested that he was the able obstacle in the least concerned of any man in the path of presiden- United States in the mighty events at A telegraph operator while this chat-

pressed that idea in a ting was going on wrote upon a slip of speech in the senate, paper a message which had just been in which he said, ticked over the wire. These were the "The senate breeds words, "Mr. Lincoln, you have just been

unhealthy candidates nominated for presifor the presidency." dent." Lincoln took An exciting political the slip, unfolded it, canvass took place in read it through slowly Illinois early in Buch- and then passed it to

glad to hear this news, and I guess I'll go and tell her." And with that infor-The election so resulted that it was mality and strange simplicity he carried

Weed Meets His Match.

"I learned this story a few days later, when I went to Springfield," said Mr. tion of Mr. Trumbull, who was chosen. Weed while chatting one evening. "After Lincoln was nominated I was so greatwondered why he should thus lightly by disappointed that I first thought of turn his face away from one of the most | making a trip to the far west. Then I dazzling prizes of politics. But years hesitated. I said: I should like to see afterward they had reason to suspect this man who has been brought up on the prairies of Illinois, and who has beaten our idol, Seward. I should like to fathom him and find out how much the party has got to fear for its success in his candidacy.' So I decided to go to Springfield and spend a few hours with swung his long legs the candidate. I had no doubt at all that over the arms of his after an hour's chat with him I could something which seemed to his friends read him through like a book. I had them to state their WENDELL PHILnever met a man before out of whom 1 was not able to pump the mysteries of his character.

> "Well, I went to Springfield and was received very cordially by Mr. Lincoln. I began to talk with him and to ask him questions. I spent two hours with him, and when I came away I said to myself, Thurlow Weed, that is the first man you have ever met who was too much for you.' He pumped everything out of me, and I got nothing in return.

"Well, I went away and told my friends that there was one thing they need not have any fears about. This man, if he was bred in a country town, knew enough to keep his own counsels, and they might be sure that he would say or



W. H. SEWARD. sight into other men's motives were something marvelous, and was ready to admit that the party had made no mistake in selecting this man whom we thought a green countryman as its candidate.

"After his election I went to see him again to talk with him about his cabinet and his measures. He then told me that he expected to ask Mr. Seward to become secretary of state and Mr. Chase secretary of the treasury. But that was all the positive information I could get out of him. I saw that he understood the public men of the country just as ing of men's character as intuitive as a woman's. He played with me, and that was a new experience, for I had been accustomed to play with others, and I realized that this man was the master of the politicians in his party.'

At the Head of the Table.

Mr. Weed used to tell the story of how Mr. Lincoln demonstrated to his cabinet that where he sat was the head of the table. When his cabinet met there was no man of them who had not been more conspicuous than Lincoln up to the time of his nomination. There was Seward, the idol of the Whigs and the eastern Republicans, a very great there was a very grave expression on his man. There was Chase, of commanding intellect; there were Cameron and Blair and Bates, all of them justly esteemed great men, and there is no doubt that each of them expected to dominate this man who was their president. Such at

"Seward tried it first," said Weed, "and no one else followed his example. He brought into the cabinet with him a paper in which he had set forth a certain policy which he thought Lincoln effect informed Lincoln that he would take it upon himself to see that policy carried out. It was a test moment, Had Lincoln yelded his cabinet would have been his master, but with a queer mannerism-half humorous, half serious —he read the paper through, struck out Mr. Seward's recommendations, thanked him for his consideration, and in that moment and motion this assembly of great men realized that the obscure lawyer was to be president not only in name, but in fact. Never did a ruler so completely and yet so gently master his cabinet or council."

The New York Bankers and Lincoln. Mr. George S. Coe, one of the great bankers of New York, in speaking of Lincoln not long ago, said that his capacity to suggest without offense his mastery over men and measures was strikingly demonstrated to a representa-

tive body of New

York bankers early in Lincoln's administration. These bankers had, after a secret meeting in which Secretary Chase had most earnestly and anxiously declared that the need of the ederal government

was not men, but D. D. FIELD. money—gold to pay the expenses necessary to arm and equip the presidency and did what he did in the local newspaper in Springfield and and feed the soldiers agreed to raise fever defeated the plan.

IT WAS A GREAT YEAR these two cases as a part of his plan for extended and supported by a chair, his government, and when they did this government, and when they did this Lincoln said that it was equal in its moral effect to the raising of an army of 500,000 men. Then they raised another \$50,000,000, and for the third time did the same thing. Lincoln therefore had a very cordial regard for these New-York bankers and never tired of speaking in words of praise of these things which they had done.

Something occurred in congress or else some financial measure was under consideration which did not meet the views of the New York bankers. They wanted a change in the law, and they regarded it as of vital interest that Mr. Lincoln's support should be given to their views. So they named a committee, and there were men upon it who had the power of raising millions, and who had won great fame for achievements that they had made as bankers. They went to Washington. Lincoln received them in his library. He had never earned over \$3,000 a year. He was only worth when he took the presidency about \$4,000 in cash and his house in Springfield, worth about \$4,000 more. He had said a year before that if he could gain a fortune of \$20,000 he would be content, for it would be sufficient for his old age, and he was now in the presence of men some of whom had made as much as \$30,000 in a week. In the presence of great wealth even

great politicians are likely to be somewhat subdued in man-

70

ner. Lincoln was as easy with these men as though they had been chums of his in his old law office chair and then asked mission. He heard

LIPS. them patiently as they talked learnedly of stocks and bonds and markets and credits. After they were all through and were awaiting his answer he arose and

with some seriousness of manner said: "Gentlemen, ever since I have come into this office I have heard a great deal about feenance. Men come here and talk to me by the hour about feenance and about feenancial policy. I hear one side and then I hear the other, just as I have heard you this morning, and now I'll tell you what my conclusion is. 1 don't understand anything about this matter of fernance, and I don't think anybody else does either. Chase says he You'd better go and talk with him. But if you get talking feenance with him or with congress you're going to get all mixed up. This country is rich enough to pay all our bills, and to pay back with interest the money that we

borrow, and that is my feenancial creed.' Thus he dismissed the bankers, and while they thought his doctrine crude, yet they admitted that it was in essence

What Wendell Phillips Said. Wendell Phillips, agitator, imprecator

and possessed of the most dazzling and fascinating rhetorical eloquence that ever graced the English tongue, went to Washington to see Lincoln, and coming home met George William Cur-Said Curtis, "Well, Mr. Phillips,

what do you think of G. W. CURTIS. Lincoln?" "I'll tel! you, Curtis. Lincoln seems to move a little slow, but he always gets there.'

This was an anecdote Curtis was fond of telling, having repeated it to a gentleman only a few weeks before his death. E. JAY EDWARDS.

THE GRAVE OF LINCOLN'S MOTHER

The Desolate Spot Where Rest the Remains of Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

It adds but one more to the many saddening facts in the early boyhood of Abraham Lincoln to state that the location selected by his father in Indiana was in many respects almost the poorest he could have found in the new state. Spencer county is, it is true, a region of great natural wealth, and is today inhabited by a very intelligent prosperous people, but Thomas Lincoln located in a district which was not only the most unhealthy in the county, but certain to be the last devel-



GRAVE OF NANCY HANKS LINCOLN. oped. As late as the year 1874, when the Rockport and Southwestern railroad penetrated that region, the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln was still in a primeval forest-possibly the only forest in southern Indiana where nature still presented the identical aspect shown to the

Seventeen miles north northeast of Rockport is a way station called Lincoln, in the narrow valley of Little Pigeon creek-a valley distinguished in early days for its fertility and its extraordinary capacity, so to speak, for all kinds of epidemics. The milk sickness, which wrought havoc among the Hankses and Sparrows and caused the death of Abraham Lincoln's mother was but a beginning. Ague was a yearly visitant. Fevers of nearly all kinds followed, and when the railroad company attempted to make a city of Lincoln the typhoid

A rew nundred yards southwest of the station the land rises to a timbered ridge. On the summit of that ridge, in a forest where every native tree still stood, visitors were pointed to four magnificent oaks forming a small quadrangle. Exactly in the center of that quadrangle, said the old citizens, Lincoln's mother was buried, but down to 1879 there was not a sign to distinguish it from any other spot in the forest. In the Best Kept Market in Phoenix Englished that year, according to Messra. Nicolay enced Cutter. Free Delivery to any hour the City. Bend, Ind., placed there a monument with this inscription:

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN, Mother of President Lincoln, Died Oct. 5, 1818. Aged 35 Years. Erected by a Friend of Her Martyred Son, 1879.

An iron fence protects the grave from what has befallen others on that hilltop -that of a wallowing place for hogs. Some kind hand has transplanted a few roses upon the grave and carried some pot flowers there, but each has fared badly for want of proper sunshine. And such, according to the latest correspondent to visit the spot, is the present condition of the grave of the great Liberator's mother.

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